MSC-16—GUAM AND THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Weather Service

# MARINE WEATHER SERVICES CHART
## GUAM AND THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NOT TO BE USED FOR NAVIGATION

### EXPLANATION OF ADVISORIES/WARNINGS

SMALL CRAFT ADVISORY: Issued to alert mariners to sustained (more than two hours) weather or sea conditions, either present or forecast, that might be hazardous to small boats. Boaters/Mariners will be able to receive the Small Craft Advisory by keeping tuned to a NOAA Weather Radio Station or the Coast Guard and commercial radio stations that transmit marine weather information. The threshold conditions for the Small Craft Advisory are usually based on 25 knots of wind or hazardous wave conditions. Decision as to the degree of hazard will be left to the boat operator, based on experience and the size and type of boat. There is no legal definition of the term "small craft". Threshold conditions for Small Craft Advisories for Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands are sustained winds of 18 knots or greater and/or gusts of 26 knots or greater.

HAZARDOUS SURF WARNING: To indicate surf conditions are expected to be 9 feet (3 meters) or greater (or less if conditions are determined to be hazardous).

GALE WARNING: Issued to indicate winds within the range of 34 to 47 knots are either present or forecast for the area.

STORM WARNING: Issued to indicate winds of 48 knots or above, no matter how high the speed, are either present or forecast for the area.

TYPHOON WARNING: To indicate winds 64 knots or greater are expected for the area. Issued only in connection with a tropical cyclone (typhoon).

NOTE: A "Watch" is an announcement issued whenever a tropical cyclone (tropical storm or typhoon) might be a potential threat to a coastal area. The "Watch" announcement is not a warning rather it indicates that the tropical storm or typhoon is near enough that everyone in the area covered by the "Watch" should listen to their radios for subsequent advisories and be ready to take precautionary action in case a warning is issued.

TROPICAL CYCLONE CONDITIONS OF READINESS: Issued whenever destructive winds of over 50 knots are expected for a particular island from the influence of either a tropical storm or a typhoon. The conditions of readiness are:

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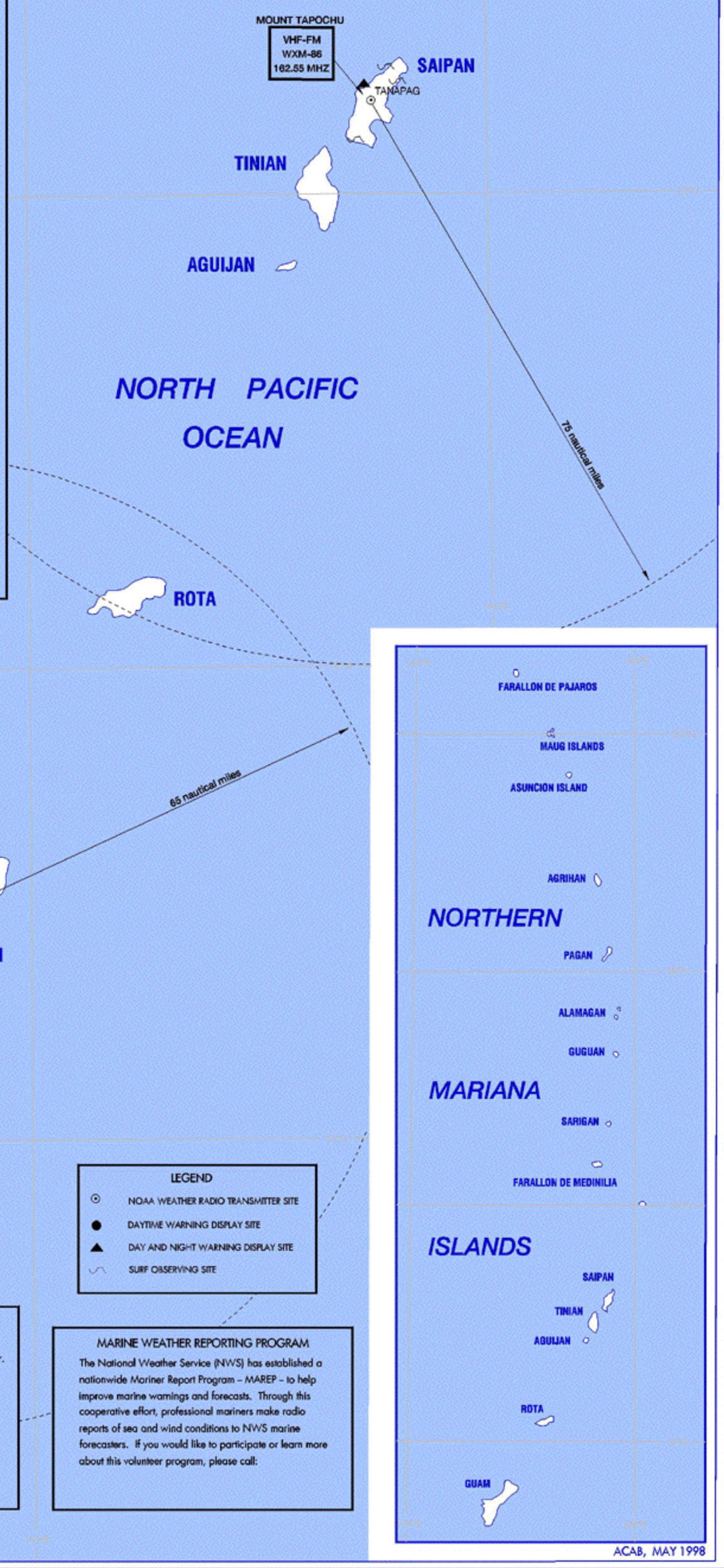
| CONDITION ONE | -Destructive winds (50 knots or greater) are expected within 12 hours. |
| CONDITION TWO | -Destructive winds are expected within 24 hours. |
| CONDITION THREE | -Destructive winds are expected within 48 hours. |
| CONDITION FOUR | -Destructive winds are expected within 72 hours (Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands are always on condition four throughout the year to be prepared for any fast-developing system in this typhoon-prone area). |




### NOAA WEATHER RADIO

NOAA Weather Radio broadcasts on 162.40 and 162.55 MHz can usually be received up to 100 miles from the transmitting antenna site, depending on terrain and the quality of the receiver. The VHF-FM frequencies used for these broadcasts require narrow band FM receivers. The National Weather Service recommends receivers having a sensitivity of one microvolt or less and a quieting factor of 20 decibels.

Some receivers are equipped with a warning alarm device that can be turned on by means of a tone signal controlled by the National Weather Service office concerned. This signal is transmitted for 13 seconds preceding an announcement of a severe weather warning.

Included are wind observations from the Hawaiian Coastal Wind reporting sites and wind and wave observations from the NOAA ocean buoys. The broadcast also includes urgent safety announcements for mariners as provided by the U.S. Coast Guard.

### MARINE WEATHER REPORTING PROGRAM

The National Weather Service (NWS) has established a nationwide Mariner Report Program – MAREP – to help improve marine warnings and forecasts. Through this cooperative effort, professional mariners make radio reports of sea and wind conditions to NWS marine forecasters. If you would like to participate or learn more about this volunteer program, please call:

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DISCREPANCY REPORTS SOLICITED

Reports of discrepancies in this chart and any other comments are appreciated and will be used in preparing the next edition.

Please mail to: National Weather Service (W/OM12)
1325 East-West Highway, Room 14126
Silver Spring, MD 20910